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SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY IN MEXICO

1910-1914

I. POLICY

In founding the School, the Patrons and Protectors determined that it should be the object of the establishment to promote in every possible way scientific research relating to the archeology and ethnology of Mexico and the adjoining countries. In determining on this policy, the Patrons and Protectors decided that the School should not devote itself to popularization of these subjects, but to the training of productive investigators and to the advancement of our knowledge. Accordingly, it was decided that Fellows of the School should be men who had completed their preliminary studies and who were able to devote themselves to field researches. Accordingly, the duties of the Director in his relations to the Fellows were primarily the selection of problems for their field-work, and the direction of their work in such a way as to develop their power for independent investigation.

By following this policy, the Patrons and Protectors hope also to develop gradually a body of investigators who, on account of a friendship developing through personal coöperation, would help to advance the interests of our branch of science in all the countries from which they came.

2. METHOD OF RESEARCH

Since the organization of the School provides for a regular change of Directors, it seemed necessary to take steps to avoid a dissipation of energy and to develop a continuous policy in the research work of the School. The Secretary of the Junta Directiva was charged with correspondence between the Directors, and has taken particular pains to connect the work of each Director with that of the preceding Director. This has been done by means of extended correspondence and personal conferences. The problems which have been the subject of the researches of the School were evolved principally during the first two years. To these were added incidentally investigations that developed from the larger plans.

During the first year of the School, 1910-11, while Professor Seler of Berlin was in charge of the work, considerable time was consumed in the preliminary organization. During this time, Professor Seler was able to make certain studies in Yucatan and in Palenque. On these journeys he was accompanied by the Fellows of the School. During the same year Professor Boas, who was at that time associated with the University of Mexico and with the International School, commenced the organization of work on the native languages of Mexico. Professor Seler's attention was also devoted to some of the important problems of the archeological history of the Valley of Mexico.

From this work of the first year was developed a more systematic plan for researches, and since that time the School has devoted its attention primarily to the following problems:

1. The geological sequence of civilizations in the Valley of Mexico and their relations to other parts of the country. Professor Seler had called particular attention to the diversity of types occurring in the Valley of Mexico,—a fact that had become apparent to other investigators as well. The question arose, how to determine the chronological sequence of these remains. A survey of the wells and brick-yards in the environment of the City of Mexico showed that this question could be studied by observations on geological sequence of strata. In the year 1911-12 a careful investigation was conducted in one single excavation in a brick-yard at San Miguel Amantla near Atzacapotzalco, which was carried out under the supervision of the Director by Mr Manuel Gamio. The result of this excavation was the definite proof that three distinct civilizations were found in the Valley of Mexico,—a primitive one, which is found in the bottom layers; a second one, identical with that of San Juan Teotihuacán; and a third one, the Aztec. Of these, the second period seemed to be the longest.

It was necessary to extend the results of this single investigation and to make other parallel investigations in numerous parts of the valley. Furthermore, it seemed necessary to determine the chronology of these periods by exact levels carried over the valley and intended to determine the depths at which these deposits were found in relation to the level of the lake.

After it had been determined that these three types occurred in succession in the valley, the question arose of ascertaining their distribution, and a careful search of archeological sites was made in the neighborhood of the city, which led to the discovery that the archaic type was found in a number of definite sites on the lower slopes of the hills,—north

of Guadalupe, on the Peñon de los Baños, on the Cerro de la Estrella, Contreras, Texcoco, San Angel, Coyoacán, and at other places. At the same time a few sites of the period of Teotihuacán were discovered.

The most ancient type appeared clearly related to the finds from the Tarascan and Otomí areas. Mr Hay, one of the Fellows of the School, working under the direction of Professor Tozzer, discovered similar types in the State of Vera Cruz, and found that the form extends southward into Guatemala and Salvador. The wide distribution of this type makes the investigation one of great importance. The archeological investigations during the past years were all devoted to clearing up this important problem.

Incidentally it seemed necessary to obtain greater clearness in regard to the relationships of the archaic type, and for this purpose Professor Engerrand undertook an investigation in Colima. Professor Tozzer was led, in connection with this investigation, to the study of a small cerro near Santiago Ahuitzotla, which yielded important results.

No extended publication on this subject has been made up to the present time, because the problem still requires further investigation. The School has obtained sufficient data, however, for a characterization of the type of the archaic civilization. Material bearing upon the succession of these three types has been illustrated in the Album mentioned as No. 19 of the list of publications.

Another problem arose in connection with the detailed studies on the distribution of types in the Valley of Mexico. Since we had to determine the chronology of successive civilizations, we had to know whether there was a probability of the development of local types during the same period. Striking evidence of the occurrence of such local types was found in Culhuacán and in Texcoco, and for this reason special attention was paid to the accurate determination of the local type of pottery of Culhuacán. This work has been largely in the hands of Miss Isabel Ramírez Castañeda. During the second year indications were found that in Culhuacán the same succession of civilizations occurred; but, owing to the character of the soil, the evidence was not conclusive, and the investigation was carried on during the following year. Fairly convincing evidence was also found during the second year of the School, showing that the two Aztec types found in this district were not synchronous.

Thus the problem before the School may be summarized as centering around the accurate investigation of the succession of civilizations in the Valley of Mexico and the effort to establish an exact chronology.

2. The ethnological investigation had for its primary object the inquiry into the structure and distribution of languages of the country. For this purpose an accurate phonetic examination of the Mexican was undertaken, which entailed the study of some of the strongly divergent dialects. An inquiry into the valuable material collected by Dr Peñafiel in connection with the census of Mexico indicated that some of these aberrant types of Mexican were on the verge of extinction, and for this reason these were taken up first. The dialects of Pochutla and of Tuxtepec were studied. Mr Mechling determined the occurrence of three distinct dialects in the region between Tuxtepec and Vera Cruz. It was planned to extend this investigation over other dialects of the Mexican language.

At the same time the more detailed study of certain languages was taken up. The School was guided in this largely by the urgency of the case; and one of the Fellows, Dr J. Alden Mason, spent two seasons among the Tepecanos of Jalisco, whose language is confined at the present time to a few individuals of one single village; while Dr Paul Radin studied the Huave near Salina Cruz, which is also bound to disappear within a short time. In connection with his studies in Tuxtepec, Mr W. H. Mechling made collections of the Mazatec and Chinantec. During the third year Dr Radin was also instructed to make a preliminary phonetic survey of the Zapotecan dialects with a view to laying out a plan for a future more thorough investigation of this difficult field.

The linguistic material brought together in this way, which consists to a very great extent of texts, brought up a question of great importance. It appeared that among the Tepecano a certain amount of ancient Mexican material still persisted, but that everywhere else the traditions of the people gave clear evidence of a far-reaching influence of Spanish oral tradition. It appeared that for the purpose of interpreting the ethnology of the Mexican Indians it was indispensable to understand better the influence of Spanish civilization upon them. From this point of view two problems were attacked. Collections were made of the folklore of the Indians, and these were compared with Spanish sources, and an investigation was made of the phonetics of the Spanish as spoken in various parts of the country, in order to determine the mutual influences of Spanish provincial dialects and the languages spoken by the Indians who later on had acquired Spanish speech. The folkloristic side of this work was carried on by all the Fellows, whose work was chiefly devoted to linguistic and ethnological researches and also by Miss Ramírez Castañeda. The strictly philological inquiry was carried on by Dr Leopold Wagner.

In the judgment of the past Directors and of the Secretary of the Junta Directiva, it should be the policy of the School to continue inquiries in regard to these three problems: namely, a chronology of archeology in the Valley of Mexico; the analysis of the grammar of Mexican languages; and the folklore and phonetics of Mexican in relation to their Spanish and Indian sources.

3. COLLECTIONS AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE SCHOOL

It has been the opinion of the Patrons and Protectors of the School that the essential scientific results of the work of the School should be placed in the Mexican Republic. For this reason it is deemed essential by all the participants that not only the most important parts of the collections, as illustrating the scientific points gained, should be deposited in the National Museum of Mexico, as is required by law, but that also the important publications of the School should be made in Mexico, so far as this may be feasible. In accordance with this plan, the Secretary of the Junta Directiva has attempted to induce in every case the investigators connected with the School to give the opportunity to the Mexican Government to publish their work, if the Government should be so inclined. The Secretary of the Junta Directiva also believes that the important specimens of the School should be published, and should in this way be made accessible to scientists who are devoting themselves to the investigation of Mexican antiquities and of Mexican ethnology. In accordance with this plan, a selection of specimens was made during the second year, in which all the essential scientific points brought out by the School inquiry were represented, and the specimens thus selected were illustrated in an Album that has been printed in Mexico City. It is the opinion of the Secretary of the Junta Directiva that the School should continue to publish illustrations in this manner.

It may not be amiss to call attention here to the fact that the problems to which the School devotes itself make it necessary that particular attention should be paid to all fragments, however unsightly, that may reveal important data in regard to our studies. This is the reason why the School collections contain so many fragments of pottery (*tepalcates*). If the Secretary of the Junta Directiva is allowed to express an opinion, he would like to say that one of the greatest needs for the advancement of scientific archeology is the establishment of a building or at least of rooms, which would enable the Museum to deposit in trays accessible to the student, although not necessarily accessible to the public, a large collection of broken material that is indispensable for an accurate study

of our problems. As long as this is not available, the handling of material of this type will always be difficult. It is not by any means necessary to preserve in Mexico everything of this type that is found, but a selection like the one illustrated in the Album should be available to students.

FRANZ BOAS

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS¹

1. Eduard Seler, *Archaeologische Reisen in Süd- und Mittel-Amerika* (*Zeitschrift für Ethnologie*, Berlin, vol. xlv, 1912, pp. 201-242).
2. Eduard Seler, *Die Stuckfassade von Acancah in Yucatan* (*Sitzungsberichte der K. preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, vol. xlvii, 1911, pp. 1011-1025, 10 pl.).
3. J. Alden Mason, *Four Mexican-Spanish Fairy-Tales* (*Journal of American Folk-Lore*, vol. xxv, 1912, pp. 191-198).
4. W. H. Mechling, *Stories from Tuxtepec, Oaxaca* (*Ibid.*, vol. xxv, pp. 199-203).
5. Franz Boas, *Notes on Mexican Folk-Lore* (*Ibid.*, vol. xxv, pp. 204-260).
6. Franz Boas, *Notes on the Chatino* (*American Anthropologist*, N.S., vol. xv, 1913, pp. 78-86).
7. Franz Boas, *Archaeological Investigations in the Valley of Mexico by the International School, 1911-12* (*Proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Americanists*, London, pp. 176-179).
8. Franz Boas, *Phonetics of the Mexican Language* (abstract) (*Ibid.*, pp. 107-108).
9. Manuel Gamio, *Arqueología de Atzacapotzalco, D. F., México* (*Ibid.*, pp. 180-187).
10. Isabel Ramírez Castañeda, *El folk-lore de Milpa Alta, D. F., México* (*Ibid.*, pp. 352-361).
11. J. Alden Mason, *The Tepehuán Indians of Azqueltán* (*Ibid.*, pp. 344-351).
12. J. Alden Mason, *Folk-Tales of the Tepecanos* (*Journal of American Folk-Lore*, vol. xxvii, 1914, pp. 148-210 [véase: Aurelio M. Espinosa, *Comparative Notes on New-Mexican and Mexican Spanish Folk-Tales*, *Ibid.*, pp. 211-231]).
13. *Escuela Internacional de Arqueología y Etnología Americanas, Año Escolar de 1910 a 1911. Informe del Presidente de la Junta Directiva. México 1912. pp. 1-32.*

¹ Those marked (*) are partially printed; (†) manuscripts completed and in the hands of the Secretary of the Junta Directiva; (‡) manuscripts in preparation.

14. — Año Escolar de 1911 a 1912. Informe del Presidente de la Junta Directiva. México 1913. pp. 1-14.
15. — Anexo al Informe del Presidente de la Junta Directiva, Año 1911 a 1912; Exposición de Trabajos en la Sala de Conferencias del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnología. pp. 1-20.
16. Jorge Engerrand, Discurso Inaugural y Reseña de la Exposición anual de la Escuela Internacional de Arqueología y Etnología Americanas (Boletín del Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnología, vol. ii, México, 1913, pp. 263-269).
17. W. H. Mechling, Languages of Oaxaca (*American Anthropologist*, N.S., vol. xiv, pp. 643-682).
- 18.* Franz Boas, El Dialecto Mexicano de Pochutla, Oaxaca (Museo Nacional de Arqueología, Historia y Etnología).
- 19.* Álbum de arqueología mexicana hecho con 69 láminas (plates finished, texts by Sr. Manuel Gamio).
- 20.* Isabel Ramírez y Casteñeda, Apuntes acerca de los Monumentos de la Parroquia de Tlalnepantla (in *Anales del Museo Nacional*, vol. iv, 1913).
- 21.† Franz Boas, Pottery Designs from Culhuacán, D. F. (to be published by the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.).
- 22.† Paul Radin, El folk-lore de Oaxaca (to be published by co-operation of the Hispanic Society of America with the International School).
- 23.† Paul Radin, Phonetics of Zapotecan Dialects.
- 24.† Paul Radin, The Huave, Grammar, Dictionary, and Texts.
- 25.† W. H. Mechling, Notes on the Mexican Dialect of Tuxtepec, Oaxaca.
- 26.† J. Alden Mason, Grammar and Texts of the Tepecanos (to be published by the New York Academy of Sciences).
- 27.† [Alfred M. Tozzer] Año Escolar de 1913-1914. Informe del Presidente de la Junta Directiva.
- 28.‡ J. Alden Mason, Religion of the Tepecanos.
- 29.‡ Franz Boas, Archaeological Observations between Teul and Mesquitil del Oro, Zacatecas.
- 30.‡ Franz Boas, Folk-Tales in Modern Mexican.
- 31.‡ Jorge Engerrand, A report on archaeological investigations in Colima.
- 32.‡ [Jorge Engerrand] Año Escolar de 1912-1913. Informe del Presidente de la Junta Directiva.

- 33.‡ Clarence L. Hay, The "tipo arcaico" and its place in the cultures of the Valley of Mexico.
- 34.‡ Alfred M. Tozzer, The excavation of a pre-Aztec site in the Valley of Mexico.
- 35.‡ Max Leopold Wagner, The Spanish Language as spoken in Mexico.
- 36.‡ Folk-Tales, Romances, Riddles, and Songs from the Federal District and from the State of Vera Cruz.
- 37.‡ Infancia de N^{vo} Sr. Jesu-Cristo.—MS. del siglo XVI de Tlacotalpam, Vera Cruz.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR 1913-1914

SEÑOR PROFESSOR DOCTOR D. EZEQUIEL A. CHÁVEZ,
President of the International School of American
Archeology and Ethnology, Mexico.

Sir,—

As Director of the School for 1913-1914, I have the honor to submit to you a report of the activities of the School for the year.

Managing Committee of the School

President, Professor D. Ezequiel A. Chávez, Delegate of the Government of Mexico.

Secretary, Professor Franz Boas, Delegate of Columbia University.

Secretary in Mexico, Doctor Alfonso Pruneda.

Professor Eduard Seler, Delegate of the Government of Prussia.

Professor Roland B. Dixon, Delegate of Harvard University.

Professor George B. Gordon, Delegate of the University of Pennsylvania.

Archer M. Huntington, Esqr., President of the Hispanic Society of America.

Directors and Fellows

Director: Professor Alfred M. Tozzer, nominated by Harvard University.

Fellows: Señor Rodrigo Gamio, nominated by the Government of Mexico.

Señorita Isabel Ramírez y Castañeda, nominated by the Government of Mexico.

Doctor Max Leopold Wagner, nominated by the Government of Prussia and the Hispanic Society of America.

William H. Mechling, A.M., nominated by the University of Pennsylvania.

Clarence L. Hay, A.M., nominated by Harvard University.

The work of the School for the year was in the following fields of research: the Spanish language in Mexico, the diffusion of Spanish narrative literature in Mexico, Spanish folklore, Mexican linguistics, Mexican folklore, and archeology.

Dr Max Wagner, the Prussian and Hispanic Society Fellow, worked in Mexico, Cordoba, Alvarado, Tlacotalpam, Cosamaloapam, and part of Tehuantepec. An endeavor was made to ascertain the present status of the Spanish language, literature, and folklore in Mexico. Dr Wagner gathered ample linguistic material to enable him to publish a general work on the Spanish language as spoken in Mexico. He also collected a large number of words of the jargon of the Mexicans together with some poems in a secret jargon and some popular texts. These have never been fully investigated and they offer much philological and sociological interest.

In Dr Wagner's study of the vitality of Spanish tradition he found that the Spanish tales, riddles, and songs were much better preserved among the Indians than among those who speak only Spanish. The words and music of many songs were transcribed, including those of children, lullabies, quintas, sextas, decimas and romances or corridos. Dr Wagner had the good fortune to find in Tlacotalpam in the state of Vera Cruz a book of great linguistic and literary importance, dating probably from the sixteenth century. The book was printed in Spain, and serves as a text for the sacred performances still given each year at Christmas. The book is unknown to the literary world. It deserves great attention, because the unknown author shows himself a clever dramatist. The book contains many pastoral scenes written in the old dialect of Andalusia. It is also important for the history of the sacred performances in Mexico.

William H. Mechling, the University of Pennsylvania Fellow, continued his studies, begun under Dr Boas in 1911-1912, upon the Nahuatl dialect spoken in Tuxtepec, Vera Cruz. He verified his former texts, collected several new ones, and amplified his grammatical material on this dialect now on the verge of extinction. He also studied the dialects spoken in Santiago Aculo and San Andres Aculo in the canton of Cosomahuapan, in Vera Cruz, Jaltipan on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and San Andres and Santiago Tuxtla. The dialects of this part of the state of Vera Cruz seem to fall into four groups: (1) Those northwest of the Papalohuapan River; (2) Those of Santiago and Acula; (3) Those of Tuxtepec and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; (4) Those of the Tuxtlas.

The limits of the Chinantec language were determined. It was found

to extend into the northern parts of the districts of Ixtlan, Villa Alta, and Choapan, Oaxaca. The Chinantec area is divided into two districts, —one the *tierra caliente*, and the other the high arid plateau. This division seems to be physical, linguistic, and ethnic. The work on the Chinantec seems to show that it has little relation with the surrounding languages. It is difficult to record phonetically, as it has not only pitch accent, but long and short vowels with a very definite quality, together with glottal stops. Some material was also collected on the Mazatec language.

Mr Mechling was able to make an archeological reconnaissance of the territory covered by his linguistic studies.

Miss Castañeda, one of the Mexican Fellows, spent the greater part of the year writing her report on the interesting and important collection she excavated at Culhuacán during the previous year. This collection adds much to our knowledge of the southern inhabitants of the Valley of Mexico. Miss Castañeda aided to some extent Dr Wagner in his researches, in addition to collecting many new tales and songs from the native population of the Valley.

Mr Clarence L. Hay, the Harvard Fellow, continued the stratigraphical work near Mexico City, which has been the most important archeological problem of the School. The most extensive work was carried on in San Miguel Amantla. Here the "tipo arcaico," also called the "tipo de cerro" and the "tipo montaña," was found *in situ* from 3 to 3.5 meters below the surface. A few pieces of this type were encountered as high as 2 meters from the surface. Mr Hay has shown beyond any reasonable doubt that the objects are where they were left by man and were not washed down from the hills into their present position. Many figurines of this type were found much larger than those hitherto excavated. These were often covered with white paint, and showed no signs of being water-worn. Several excavations were made on the ranch of Don Julio Diaz near the station of Naucalpan on the road to Toluca, and also on the slopes of the hill of Los Remedios. A most interesting collection of very large figurines of the "tipo arcaico" were found in these places, seldom deeper than 1.25 m. from the surface.

Collections of the same type were also obtained from Contreras, Texcoco, Zacatengo and the hills of Guadalupe, Peñon de los Baños, San Angel, and Coyoacan. Mr Hay has figurines and pottery closely resembling the primitive type which he found at Cuatololapan in the State of Vera Cruz. He also has a figurine from Guatemala which seems clearly to belong to the same type. Photographs of several images taken

by Mr Pablo Henning in Salvador show a strong resemblance to the "tipo arcaico" of the Valley of Mexico. It seems clear that we shall have to extend the limits of this primitive type as far to the east as it has already been extended into Colima and Michoacan on the west. The presence of similar types far to the south may show that we have here something representative of that early stage of culture which spread over the whole of Middle America and from which the various cultures now known as pre-Nahua, Zapotec, and Maya have sprung.

The Director and Mr Gamio, one of the Mexican Fellows, investigated two sites in the village of San Miguel Amantla from a stratigraphical point of view, endeavoring to trace the course of the ancient river-bed. The results were not satisfactory, as the trenches, although continued for some distance, failed to show the banks of the river. Much water-worn pottery sherds and a few figurines of the "tipo arcaico" were found.

The greater part of the time was spent in excavating a "cerrito" a short distance west of the village of Santiago Ahuitzotla. The site proved to be of some importance, and I am glad to state that through the initiative of Señor Manuel Gamio, the Inspector of Ruins, the excavations have been taken over by the Government of Mexico and made a "national monument." The site was found to cover an area of about 1,000 square meters. Floors on three distinct levels were found. From the position and character of the objects found it seems clear that the main portion of the site dates back to early pre-Aztec times. It continued to be occupied, however, into the Aztec period. The lowest floors are badly damaged. They were followed in all directions by means of tunnels. The main edifice is on the second floor level and was completely uncovered. The walls and floors are well preserved. This building, 17 meters square, is surrounded by a low stone-faced terrace. To the north and south of the main structure other rooms were found. There is a striking similarity between the room plans on this level and those of the rooms excavated near the pyramids at San Juan Teotihuacán. The highest level floors date only from Aztec times. These were only a few feet beneath the present surface of the ground.

A large collection of all the main types of pre-Aztec and Aztec pottery and figurines was made. The greater part of the earlier type came from four well-like reservoirs beneath the floors and from large ash deposits under the floor of the southern rooms. The excavation of this "cerrito" shows the importance of a systematic investigation of the large number of other artificial mounds scattered over the Valley of Mexico. As a beginning of this work Señor Rodrigo Gamio is at work

upon a map of the Valley with the sites already explored by the Government and by the School and those awaiting exploration.

Respectfully submitted,
ALFRED M. TOZZER,
Director

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSGTTTS,
14 October, 1914.